

Message Text

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46

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-13 OMB-01 AID-20 NIC-01 PC-04

EB-11 COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 EA-11

TRSE-00 RSR-01 /174 W

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R 160835Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2592

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KIGALI 0497

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EGEN RW, BY, CG

SUBJ: REPORTS OF PLANS FOR INCREASED COOPERATION AMONG
BURUNDI, ZAIRE AND RWANDA

REF: BUJUMBURA 0802 (NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY HAS HEARD RUMORS CIRCULATING HERE THAT MOBUTU, MICOMBERO AND HABYARIMANA DISCUSSED SOME FORM OF "ECONOMIC UNION" AT THEIR GOMA MEETING LAST MONTH. AT SOUTH KOREAN RECEPTION AUGUST 15 CHARGE ASKED MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS NSEKALIJE WHETHER THERE ANY SUBSTANCE TO REPORTS. MINISTER REPLIED THAT THREE COUNTRIES HAD AGREED TO SET UP SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS TO HANDLE SPECIFIC PROBLEMS. HE MENTIONED BORDER TRADE AS ONE OF SUBJECTS TO BE COVERED BY COMMISSIONS. MINISTER SAID FURTHER DISCUSSIONS ON SUBJECT WOULD BE HELD AT NEXT SESSION OF "TRIPARTITE" AMONG THREE COUNTRIES EXPECTED LATER THIS YEAR. HE
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VIGOROUSLY DENIED THAT PLANS FOR TRIPARTITE COOPERATION

WENT AS FAR AS ECONOMIC OR POLITICAL UNION. RWANDA'S POLICY, HE SAID, WAS ONE OF "OUVERTURE" TO ALL ITS NEIGHBORS.

2. PRESIDENTIAL ECONOMIC ADVISOR AUGUST LINDT CONFIRMED TO EMBASSY THAT ECONOMIC COOPERATION HAD BEEN DISCUSSED IN GENERAL TERMS AT GOMA. HE POINTED OUT THAT RWANDA'S DEPENDENCE ON UGANDA AND KENYA FOR COMMUNICATIONS WOULD MAKE GOR CAUTIOUS ABOUT AMBITIOUS SCHEMES FOR JOINING ECONOMIES OF ZAIRE, BURUNDI AND RWANDA.

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY SUSPECTS THAT GOR DOWNPLAYING OF TALK OF UNION ALSO RELATED TO ITS TRADITIONAL FEAR OF DOMINANCE BY ZAIRE AS WELL AS CONTINUING DISTRUST OF BURUNDI MOTIVES.
SHOSTAL

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